

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07

COME-00 INT-05 FEA-01 IO-11 /077 W

----- 109985

R 121420Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 6957

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI BY POUCH

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 2203

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ELTN, EMIN, CG

SUBJECT: ZAIRE'S COPPER EXPORTS

REF: (A) KINSHASA 2185, (B) LUSAKA 606

1. REF B INDICATES THAT ZAIRES MONTHLY COPPER EXPORT VIA ZAMBIA, RHODESIA, AND MOZAMBIQUE IS 43,000 MT PER MONTH. WE DOUBT STRONGLY VERACITY THIS FIGURE BECAUSE IF ANNUALIZED IT EXCEEDS ZAIRE'S TOTAL ANNUAL PRODUCTION. THE 43,000 FIGURE SEEMS LIKELY TO BE THE ANNUAL, RATHER THAN MONTHLY, PRODUCTION EXPORTED BY THAT ROUTE.

2. REF A CARRIES FULL DISCUSSION OF THE OPTIONS WHICH ZAIRE CAN EXERCIS FOR THE EXPORT OF COPPER FROM SHABA REGION. WE DOUBT, HOWEVER, THAT DEFINITIVE MEASURES HAVE YET BEEN TAKEN TO REDIRECT THE FLOW OF COPPER PROJECTED FOR BEIRA, BUT ARE MONITORING DEVELOPMENTS.

3. RE PARA 3 REF B, WE DOUBT THAT ZAIRE WILL ATTEMPT TO INCREASE SUBSTANTIALLY ITS USAGE OF THE PORT AT DAR,
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BECAUSE OF THE CONGESTION AND EXPORBITANT PORT CHARGES

FOR WHICH DAR HAS BECOME FAMOUS. THE COPPER WHICH ZAIRES DOES CHOOSE TO EXPORT VIA DAR WILL PROBABLY BE SHIPPED ACROSS LAKE TANGANYIKA FROM KALEMIA TO KIGOMA AND THEN ON TO DAR RATHER THAN THROUGH ZAMBIA.

4. WE HAVE HAD RECENT INDICATIONS THAT ZAIRES IS HAVING RELATIVELY LITTLE TROUBLE MOVING COPPER DOWN THE RIVER FROM ILEBO TO KINSHASA. CIS, THE U.S. FIRM BUILDING THE INGA-SHABA TRANSMISSION LINE, OFFERED TO CARRY COPPER DOWN RIVER ON ITS EMPTY RETURNING BARGES, BUT HAS NOT YET RECEIVED A REPLY FROM GOZ. PROBLEMS COULD DEVELOP LATER IF WEATHER REMAINS DRY; ZAIRES RIVER AT MATADI HAS ALREADY BEGUN TO DROP ALTHOUGH LEVEL BETWEEN KINSHASA AND ILEBO REMAINS NEARLY NORMAL.

5. WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFO INDICATING THAT ZAIRIAN COPPER CONTINUES TO CROSS THE RHODESIA-MOZAMBIQUE BORDER, AS MENTIONED REF B. CUTLER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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